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updated 02/11/02

To the Commission,

I support the complete elimination of any and all testing of Morse code
competancy as a qualification for any class of Amateur Radio service license. I
further support the elimination of all frequency sub-bands which are limited
exclusively to the use CW and the re-farming of those frequencies to other modes
as appropriate.

While many previous filers have supported Morse proficiency as a license
requirement, few have outlined any other than anecdotal or emotoional reasons
why Morse testing should be retained. These include:

1) It was a wonderful experience in their youth to learn code - therefore, all
should be forced by law to learn it.

2) Code has been used for a long time, at least as long as they have been hams,
and so, therefore, it should be used forever more.

3) Testing for code eliminates the possibility of rules violations or operating
bad practice.

4) They were forced to learn code so they want eveyone to be forced to learn
code.

5) Without code testing, the sky will fall.

In fact and instead, the following is true:

a) For all practical purposes, Morse code has ceased to be used for any purpose outside of ham radio or museums. No U.S. armed service uses code nor do any branches even _listen_ to transmissions of code. If they did, they do not have any trained operators capable of understanding code that were not trained decades ago.

b) The elimination of code testing by foreign government regulators means that the use of CW as an "international language" of last resort will be increasingly rare.

c) The need for a pool of trained operators no longer requires a pool of operators trained in Morse code. Rather, that pool of operators should be trained in other technologies such as data communications, digital voice communications, satelite, broadband wireless, etc. Certainly not CW.

CW is a perfectly good means of communicating. Today, such communication is limited to that between other hams but, if that is what these operators prefer, more power to them. And, if the big ones are ever dropped and all that is left to communicate with are two rocks to pound on one anoher, those hams will be able to rag chew all night long.

In all, however, no commenter has shown, in the least possible way, why Morse code proficiency should be required by force of law. Whether one is for CW or against it, CW has lost all cogency as a means of communication other than for the sake of nostalgia.

Morse code proficiency testing deserves to be ash-canned. It no longer serves a useful purpose.